

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 3061

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: AHG REPORT TO NAC MAY 31

REF: A) MBFR VIENNA 0013; B) USNATO 2639; C) USNATO 3028

SUMMARY: AHG REPS BRIEFED MAY 31 NAC ON MBFR DEVELOPMENTS IN PERIOD SINCE LAST REPORT ON APRIL 5. PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENT WAS THAT AMBASSADOR GRANDE ASKED NAC VIEW ON CURRENT INTERPRETATION OF SECTION V OF NAV GUIDANCE RE "APPROPRIATE CONCLUSIONS" PARTICIPANTS COULD DRAW AS RESULT OF REVIEW PROCEDURE. PECK (UK) SAID UK INTERPRETATION WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD SPC HAD ACCEPTED, WAS THAT WITHDRAWAL WAS ONE POSSIBLE CONCLUSION, AND THAT AHG COULD TELL WP THIS. HOWEVER, BOSS (GERMANY) SAID HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS, AND THAT SPC SHOULD CONSIDER MATTER. SPC IN AFTERNOON MEETING SET C.O.B. JUNE 4 FOR APPROVAL BY SILENCE PROCEDURE. BOSS SAID HE NOW HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO AGREE. ONLY BELGIUM EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS. END SUMMARY.

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1. NAC MAY 31 WAS DEVOTED TO AHG REPORT ON MBFR DEVELOPMENTS SINCE LAST REPORT APRIL 5. AMBASSADOR FRANDE DELIVERED ORAL BRIEFING.

2. GRANDE CLOSELY FOLLOWED TALKING POINTS IN REF A, EXCEPT THAT HE NOTED KHLESTOV'S CRITICISM THAT WESTERN NON-INCREASE PROPOSAL IS LIMITED IN DURATION, WHILE SOVIET AND U.S. REDUCTIONS IN PHASE I ARE NOT LIMITED; AND SMIRNOVSKY QUESTION WHETHER U.S. AND SOVIET PHASE I AGREEMENT WOULD BE VOIDED IF THERE WERE NOT SATISFACTORY PHASE II AGREEMENT. HE SAID GENERAL FEELING OF AHG IS THAT THIS EASTERN REFERENCE TO A WITHDRAWAL CLAUSE SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO COUNCIL ATTENTION. THE AHG WOULD LIKE TO HAVE NAC VIEW ON CORRECT INTERPRETATION OF SECTION V OF NAC GUIDANCE REGARDING THE "APPROPRIATE CONCLUSIONS" THE PARTICIPANTS COULD DRAW AS A RESULT OF THE REVIEW PROCEDURE (REF B.).

3. PECK (UK), AT LATER POINT IN BRIEFING, SAID THE UK INTERPRETATION WAS THAT WITHDRAWAL WAS ONE POSSIBLE CONCLUSION, AND THAT THE AHG COULD LATER TELL WP THE SOVIETS COULD WITHDRAW. HE HOPED NAC COULD CONFIRM THIS INTERPRETATION TODAY IF THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOICES. GRANDE SAID THIS WOULD HELP THE AHG. HOWEVER BOSS (GERMANY) SAID THAT SINCE HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS, HE COULD NOT GO ALONG AND THE SPC SHOULD CONSIDER THE MATTER AT NEXT SPC (JUNE 4). HE HOPED GERMANY COULD JOIN GENERAL CONSENSUS AT THAT TIME.

4. PANSA (ACTING SYG) RAISED QUESTION OF WP LINKAGE OF PROGRESS IN CSCE WITH THAT IN MBFR. AMBASSADOR QUARLES REPLIED THAT SOME WP OFFICIALS IN VIENNA AND IN CAPITALS HAVE DENIED ANY SUCH LINK. QUARLES HAS TOLD POLISH COLLEAGUE IN VIENNA THAT ANY EASTERN TACTICS OF THIS SORT WOULD BE DANGEROUS. IF NEGOTIATIONS STALEMATED BY END OF YEAR, IT MIGHT MEAN THE END OF MBFR, SINCE SOME WESTERN PARTICIPANTS MIGHT BEGIN TO TAKE UNILATERAL ACTIONS.

5. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) SAID GRANDE'S STATEMENT MADE CLEAR THAT COMMON CEILING IS AT CENTER OF NEGOTIATIONS, AND ASKED IF WP RESISTENCE TO IT DID NOT MAKE PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IMPOSSIBLE. DOES WP LACK OF FLEXIBILITY MEAN EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS MUST OCCUR (E.G. IN CSCE) BEFORE PROGRESS MADE IN MBFR.

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QUARLES REPLIED WP CLEARLY OPPOSED TO COMMON CEILING, BUT HAS NOT REJECTED IT COMPLETELY, AND HAS INDICATED SOME POSSIBLE LEEWAY, IN HINTING THAT A "NEW SITUATION" COULD RESULT FROM MBFR. WP HAS OF COURSE SHOWN LESS FLEXIBILITY IN CURRENT ROUND THAN IN PREVIOUS ONE, AND AHG BELIEVES THAT AFTER IT USES COMPLETED NAC GUIDANCE ON LINKAGE, FURTHER AHG MOVEMENT SHOULD RELATE TO MOVEMENT BY OTHER SIDE.

6. SPE IN AFTERNOON MEETING AGREED TO SUBJECT FOLLOWING TEXT REGARDING SECTION V TO APPROVAL BY SILENCE PROCEDURE, WITH 6:00 P.M. JUNE 4 AS DEADLINE FOR OBJECTIONS:
IF THE EASTERN SIDE AGAIN RAISES THE QUESTION OF WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE SOVIET UNION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE FIRST PHASE AGREEMENT UNDER THE REVIEW PROCEDURE DESCRIBED IN SECTION V

OF THE COUNCIL'S GUIDANCE ON THE LINK, THE ALLIED NEGOTIATORS
ARE AUTHORIZED TO STATE THAT "WITHDRAWAL COULD BE A POSSIBLE
CONSEQUENCE OF A REVIEW."

IF THE EAST CONTINUES TO ASK WHETHER PARTICIPANTS WILL
HAVE THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE AGREEMENT, THE ALLIED
NEGOTIATORS ARE AUTHORISED TO SAY "YES, IN PRINCIPLE, INSOFAR
AS THE SOVIET UNION IS CONCERNED." END TEXT.
BOSS SAID HE NOW HAD INSTRUCTIONS ENABLING HIM TO ACCEPT THIS TEXT.
BELGIUM WAS ONLY GOUNTRY TO EXPRESS RESERVATIONS,
AND INSISTED ON JUNE 4 DEADLINE. U.S. REP AND OTHERS URGED
APPROVAL TODAY.
RUMSFELD.

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